



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Guinea-Bissau Country Brief

November-December 2024



In Numbers

720 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 4,100+ cash assistance distributed

US\$ 13.4 million six months net funding requirements (January – June 2025)

359,170+ people assisted
In Nov & Dec 2024

Operational Context



Guinea-Bissau has been experiencing political instability which has severely constrained socio-economic and human development. In this context, poverty impacts women more than men, as they have reduced access to education, land, and credit.

According to the World Bank's Economic Update for 2024, Guinea-Bissau's economic growth is hindered by structural challenges, including heavy dependence on raw cashew nut exports, political instability, and a poor business environment, which exacerbate poverty and fiscal deficits.

In 2023, Guinea-Bissau's fiscal deficit increased to 7.6 percent of GDP from 6.1 percent in 2022 due to weak cashew export performance and falling revenues.

According to the latest Cadre Harmonise analysis (November 2024), over 129,620 people (7 percent of the analysed population) are projected to be in crisis phases or worse during the forthcoming lean season (June–August 2025). Additionally, 324,505 people (20 percent) are expected to be in the stressed phase and will need humanitarian assistance to prevent them from falling into the crisis phase.

WFP, present in Guinea-Bissau since 1974, supports government policies and interventions in the areas of emergency preparedness and response, stunting prevention and moderate acute malnutrition treatment, education through its home-grown school feeding programme, resilience building, and social protection.

Population: **2 million**

2023/2024 Human Development Report: **179 out of 193**

Income Level: **Low**

Chronic malnutrition: **31% of children between 6-59 months**

Operational Updates

- In response to the devastating floods affecting over 45,000 individuals, WFP, along with government ministries, UN agencies, and other stakeholders, conducted a joint multi-sectoral rapid assessment. This assessment, covering 41 communities across eight regions, identified 6,410 households, with 5,000 prioritized based on pre-defined vulnerability criteria.
- As part of the response, WFP will implement both conditional and unconditional cash transfer programmes to assist approximately 35,000 individuals through three rounds of support. Beneficiaries received SIM cards from the telecom operator MTN, and transfers were done through mobile money.
- WFP is strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Women, Family, and Social Solidarity by drafting technical guidelines, targeting frameworks, and key documents to strengthen the social protection systems. This is in line with efforts to establish sustainable mechanisms for addressing the needs of vulnerable populations and improving communities' resilience to future shocks.
- WFP in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, and the African Development Bank (AfDB), officially launched the Value Chains, Agriculture, and Rural Entrepreneurship Support Project (PACVEAR) in Guinea-Bissau. The project aims to transform the country's agricultural sector and strengthen rural communities by promoting economic inclusion for smallholder farmers through modern and sustainable agricultural practices. Targeting the regions of Bafatá, Oio, Gabu, and Quínara, PACVEAR is expected to support over 35,000 people, including 13,000 women.
- The initiative, financed by the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP) and the African Development Fund (ADF), will be implemented through a collaborative approach, leveraging partnerships to enhance the development of local value chains and empower rural communities.
- WFP, in collaboration with the Government of Guinea-Bissau, organized a five-day training on the use of drones in Bissau. The training was able to enhance the capacity of WFP staff and partners including government staff to utilize drones effectively and safely. Participants were presented with the know-hows to integrate this technology into emergency preparedness and response efforts, as well as resilience and sustainable development projects.

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Photo Caption: Eight National Nutrition Day in Guinea-Bissau
Credit: Isabel NUNES CORREIA/WFP Guinea-Bissau

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirement (in US\$)	Received Contributions (in US\$)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
136.3 m	31.1 m	13.4 m

Strategic Target 1: Access to Food

Strategic Outcome 1: Crisis-affected populations in Guinea-Bissau are able to meet their basic food and nutrition requirements in the aftermath of shock.

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Provide assistance to crisis-affected populations and strengthen the capacities of national partners and local communities in preparedness and response.

Strategic Outcome 2: Children, vulnerable populations, and people at risk of malnutrition in Guinea Bissau have improved diets and access to basic services, including health, education, and nutrition by 2027.

Focus area: Root causes

Activities:

- Provide nutritious school meals and take-home rations to schoolchildren for improved education outcomes, and pilot approaches to strengthening the national school health and nutrition system.
- Provide nutrition services for populations at risk of malnutrition and strengthen community and national-level nutrition services.

Strategic Outcome 3: Rural communities in Guinea-Bissau, particularly women and young people, have increased resilience in the face of climate change and socioeconomic shocks and stressors by 2027.

Focus area: Resilience building

Activities:

- Provide an integrated support package to smallholder farmers, especially women’s and young smallholder farmers’ associations, for improved livelihoods, access to markets, diets, and resilience.

Strategic Target 5: Capacity Building

Strategic Outcome 4: The social protection system in Guinea-Bissau is strengthened by 2027.

Focus area: Resilience building

Activities:

- Provide technical support and capacitate national institutions to build an efficient, inclusive, nutrition-sensitive, and shock-responsive social protection system.

- WFP and the Government of Japan signed a partnership agreement to support the National School Feeding Programme, providing meals to 200,000 children in 850 schools for the academic year 2025/2026. The agreement, valued at 200 million yen (approximately US\$ 1.27 million), was signed in the presence of the Minister of National Education and the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. The contribution will enable WFP to procure 101 mt of canned fish and 546 mt of rice from Japan to enhance food security in schools.



Nutrition

- On 18 November, Guinea-Bissau commemorated the eighth edition of National Nutrition Day under the theme "**Kume Dritu, pa bu Vivi Dritu**" ("Eat Well to Live Well"). The event, chaired by the Minister of Public Health, Pedro Tipote, brought together key stakeholders, including the Mayor of Bissau, the Ambassadors of Spain and Portugal, the UN Resident Coordinator and representatives from civil society and development partners. The day served as an opportunity to reaffirm commitments to combating malnutrition, particularly among vulnerable populations such as children, pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls, and people living with HIV and tuberculosis.
- Cash transfers were done to 300 pregnant women and girls to encourage them to visit health facilities to access care and improve their diet.

Challenges

- Guinea-Bissau is increasingly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, with rising temperatures, prolonged droughts, sea-level rise, and rainfall variability severely impacting critical sectors such as agriculture, food security, and infrastructure. These challenges exacerbate poverty and vulnerability across the country, necessitating urgent action to enhance climate resilience and sustainable development efforts.

Donors (In alphabetical order)

African Development Bank, Denmark, European Commission, Finland, Germany, Government of Guinea-Bissau, Ireland, Japan, Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS, Korea, Norway, UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), Slovenia, Spain, and Joint Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Fund

Photo Caption: Signing ceremony between WFP and the Government of Japan. **Credit:** Charlotte Alves /WFP Guinea-Bissau